

REMARKS:

Claims 17-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The terms "items such as" in claims 17 and 22 have now been modified and the terms "such as" have been deleted.

Claims 17-18, 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Runion in view of DeLoach. Claim 19 has been determined to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the rejection under §112, second paragraph. Claims 22-27 have also been determined to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under §112.

Applicant has now modified independent claims 17 and 22 whereby both claims now incorporate method steps with the closeable side guard. Accordingly, independent claims 17 and 22 and all claims dependent thereon are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Based on changes to the claims and the modification of the specification in which no new matter has been incorporated, applicant believes that all remaining claims are patentably distinct over the prior art of DeLoach and Runion whether such art is considered severally or in combination. Claim allowance is therefore earnestly solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop Amendment, Group Art Unit 1746, Attention: Examiner Saeed T. Chaudhry (8 pages including cover letter) to Fax No. (703)872-9306 on this 12th day of November, 2004.



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